



MONITORIAL.

For the Portland Gazette.
In a government like ours, where all the power is in the hands of the people, or where they elect all the officers of state, we may trace most civil and political evil to a want of correct information, or to false reasoning among the people. I do not believe, that a man with his eyes open would deliberately move on to destruction. Self-preservation and self-enjoyment are the master springs of all our actions. Self is the centre around which our passions and affections revolve; and altho' they are often very extraneous in their motions, yet they constantly return to the point, from which they set out. To obtain the greatest good is the deliberate and general purpose of every man's life. Passion may disarm him for a moment; the heart may gain too great an influence over the understanding; yet he always believes, that he is acting for his own best interest. Even the demagogue, who scatters fire brands among the populace, and succeeds at last in kindling a flame that devours him, fancies that on the whole he consults all along his own happiness.

But the blindness of the people, to which I first alluded, is not so much the effect of passion, as it is a real defect of information, or false reasoning, with which popular leaders fill their heads, and which they are unable to detect. Among errors of this kind description, there is one very current in this day respecting liberty. It is of the most dangerous, disorganizing, and seditious kind. Let me repeat a little of the slang of demagogues; and then I shall be understood.—"Nature made man free; who then has a right to curtail this liberty?—This is a wicked law, for it restrains your liberty. What! have you not a right to fish in this or that stream? Have you not a right to purchase any commodity, when you please and where you please, of whom you please, as much or little as you please, and use it where and when you please?—Who is this man, that he forbids your taking a merry or sociable turn upon the Sabbath? Would he bind you down to a creed?—And ten thousand more of the same character."

This is the dangerous stuff, that will yet turn us topsy turvy, and learn men to carry daggers under their cloaks, if the exertions of the wise and good prevent not. This doctrine raised a conflagration in France, which was not extinguished, until the blood was flowing from the Straits of Gibraltar to the city of Moscow. Men of information know that such language is sheer sophistry. They know, that it flows from a principle, which, if once universally established and acted upon, would desolate the earth. The language of the West, the roving Tartar of Asia, acknowledge some law; but this principle recognizes none, human or divine!

Now, Sir, whoever you may be, that have either acted upon, or contend for the truth and justice of this doctrine, hesitate a moment, and see where it leads. It makes no distinction, and nothing else, law; or I would rather say, it arms the strongest against all law. According to this, your neighbour may arm himself with a dagger, enter your house, your barn, or your enclosure, and if he molest him in his depredations, may you to the heart! For why should his property be invaded? He is hungry, and nature tells him to seize the first he can come to; and (kind mother) she tells him to devour himself too. Nay farther—what right have you, in such times of liberty, to appropriate one of the other sex to yourself?

Liberty (alma mater) has filled the world with her bounties, dead and alive; and not only permits, but commands us to taste them. Because you have first got possession of her fairest, sweetest gifts, the free press may say, shall I be shut out by such a threatening monopoly? Now, upon your principle, answer him if you can; restrain him if you dare. It will allow you nothing to say, he injures you, and has no right to do another an injury. The question is not about injury; but about liberty. A man, upon this abominable principle I am combatting, must have his

liberty, as it is called, first; and injury or evil is an after matter.

My limits will not permit me to pursue this idea any farther. But let me repeat—This principle, if adopted and practised upon, would overturn and destroy all civil institutions, and political ones too; the earth for a while would flow with blood; and men at last would find no rest or safety but by creeping into the dens of the mountains, and shunning one another's sight! If any one wishes to see such blessed times, and to enjoy such blessed privileges as these, let him contend for Jacobinic liberty.

Stop, Sir; don't throw down the paper; I am about to say something on 't'other side. You wish by this time to hear what liberty is. I will tell you after enumerating a few particulars, in which it does not consist. Liberty is not the power to stab whom we please. It is not the power to injure, in any way, whom we please. It is not the power to disturb society when we please. It is not the power of gratifying our passions and inclinations as we please. It is not the power of disposing even of our time and property, as a wicked disposition may please. In short it is not the power of doing any thing contrary to the publick good. But mark well—it is the power of doing what we ought to do; and the being restrained—yes restrained from doing what we ought not to do. It consists in the protection and restraints of salutary laws. This is rational civil liberty. This alone can secure the possession of any thing worth having. This only will effectually promote the publick good; a word most scandalously abused; and which the vilest demagogues are obliged to have continually in their mouths. No man dares avow, that he does not aim at the publick good. He would be abandoned by the common consent of all parties.

Remember one distinction—remember it while you live; teach it to your children; inculcate it again and again while their minds are tender; interweave it with the very frame of their constitution. It is this—there is a very wide difference between liberty and licentiousness. If you ask what this distinction is, look at what I have said above. I have endeavored to make it as plain as possible in so short an Essay. The one tends to build up civil society; the other to pull down. The former is the greatest blessing a nation can enjoy; the prevalence of the latter is the greatest curse.

MEIELLUS.

Miscellaneous Selections.

From the Winchester (Virginia) Gazette.

TAXES! TAXES!

In another part of this paper will be found the Collector's Notice to Manufacturers, in relation to the duties required to be performed by them, previous to the 18th of April, at which time commences a system of taxation which, whether regard is had to the enormity of the duties imposed, or the oppressive and vexatious provisions of the law, has not, perhaps been equalled, even in the most despotic government in Christendom. As the publication of the laws would occupy a considerable portion of our paper, we refer our readers to the "Table of Taxes," copied from the National Intelligencer, which, at a single view, exhibits the taxes imposed on certain articles of domestic manufacture;—On domestic distilled spirits; household furniture; carriages, watches, &c.;—We may, at a future day, lay the laws themselves before our readers;—in the mean time, a few plain remarks on the subject may perhaps not be unavailing.

Our democratic law givers, it will not be denied, have ever professed themselves the exclusive friends of Domestic Manufactures;—hence it was but reasonable to expect, that their actions and professions on that subject would have been consistent with each other; that they would not so soon have forgotten themselves as, instead of extending a fostering hand to our infant manufacturers, to burden them with so enormous a load of taxes as will, in all probability, compel many to decline business!—We leave it to the people themselves to judge how they have been deluded by their specious professions, and how little confidence

ought to be reposed in the future professions of Democratic Legislators.—Hitherto the ignorant and uninformed classes of the community, have been gulled by artful and designing men, into the belief, that the numberless acts of folly and wickedness with which our rulers have been charged by the Federalists, were, "Federal misrepresentations."

We however trust that, on this occasion, the people will not suffer themselves to be deluded by certain men in our society, who, if their will were law would keep them in utter ignorance of the true state of things, and endeavour to prove to them that "Democrats could do no wrong."

The present subject is too plain to be misunderstood. These enormous loads of taxes are the result of war waged to secure "Sailors' Rights," but of which not a syllable is uttered in the late Treaty of Peace!—But to the point.

Who, pursuing the occupation of a Hatter, will say that his profits, after defraying the expenses of his family, house rent, and every expense incident to his business, equal 8 per cent, on the gross amount of his sales? We venture to say, none will.—We have taken some pains to collect information on this business, of which the result is:—that in the principal shop in this borough, there have been employed from eight to ten workmen, who have manufactured forty hats per week, or 2080, per annum, which, at 6 dollars, will amount to 12,480 dollars. On which, charge 8 per cent, and it will yield to the government 1000 dollars! In the second best shop, there are manufactured fine hats to the amount of 3000 dollars which will pay to the government 640 dollars. Prudent and economical as these worthy mechanics have been, they have assured us that their profits are short of 1000 dollars per annum. Indeed, we are assured by one of them, that when the business, some years since, was almost exclusively confined to himself, and his profits greater, by far, than at present, his shop produced an average profit of but 1000 dollars per annum; but that, for the last several years, on account of the increase of his family, the enhanced price of every necessary of life; the increase of journeymen's wages, and competition which has been produced, by the establishment of many other shops, he has not been enabled to do more than support his family. The idea, that this tax will ultimately fall on the consumer will prove fallacious; inasmuch as the necessities of many, pursuing that and other occupations, will put it out of their power to adhere firmly, in demanding what might be deemed, a fair price, (including the tax) for their wares; the consequence will be, that many will be obliged to contribute more to the government, than their net profits amount to; and in a few years, ruin and destruction must follow!

With respect to Saddlers, although the tax imposed on their manufactures is but 6 per cent, it will bear even more oppressively upon them than upon Hatters. We have been assured by two of that profession of unquestionable integrity and veracity, that in the most prosperous period of their business, it never produced a clear profit of 6 per cent. In a shop employing four hands, the produce of their labour may be set down (exclusive of incidental jobs) at 8 saddles per week, or about 400 per annum.

Say at D 12 each amounts to	4800
800 bridles at D 1 50	1200
	D 6000

On which he will have to pay, to extinguish the debt occasioned by this "just and necessary war," the sum of three hundred and sixty dollars!! But take the calculation on a smaller scale. There are many persons of that occupation, who find it as much as they are enabled to do, with the aid of a single apprentice, to support a wife and a family of children: Now, suppose a mechanic thus situated to manufacture 2 saddles per week, or 100 per annum—it would amount to D 1200. Say also 300 bridles, at 1 50

	450
Total	1650

He will, out of this small pittance, in addition to his tax on his house, if he should be so fortunate as to have one, his poll tax, the tax on his cow, horse, furniture, &c. &c. &c. have to pay to the general government 100 dollars! And for what?—To pay the expenses of a three years' war, not a single object of

which has been obtained! To provide for the support of a set of leeches & hangers-on, who fatten upon the publick treasury, among whom may be classed Cutts, the President's brother-in-law, who receives 12,000 dollars per annum, as the head of an office, which was here before unknown under the government, and by every candid man believed unnecessary!—The remarks which have been made in relation to Saddlers and Hatters, will, with equal force, apply to Tanners.—The Tanners in this place will, each, be subject to a tax of at least 400 dollars per annum. The article of leather is already so greatly enhanced in price, although it is certain that the profits on that branch of trade are, notwithstanding, much less than usual, that it will be difficult, if not impracticable, to advance the price still more; it will therefore follow, that this enormous tax will be a dead loss to the manufacturer; and he will probably, in a few years, see his property sacrificed under the hammer of the Auctioneer, for the payment of his taxes; but he will be consoled by the reflection, that it was to contribute to the payment of the publick debt created by Mr. Madison's "just and necessary war."

But why, let it be asked, were a few branches of Manufactures selected, and most oppressively taxed, whilst others, even more lucrative, have passed unnoticed?—Let it be remembered, that whilst a mechanic, whole utmost industry is required to enable him to support and educate this family is taxed from 100 to 1000 dollars, the merchant who retails goods perhaps to the amount of 50,000 per annum at a profit of 20 or 25 per cent, contributes but 67 and a half dollars, which includes all his taxes, both to the general and state government! Is this equitable? Is it honest? Will people suffer themselves to be longer deluded by the wily arts & deceitful professions of those who have arrogantly called themselves their best friends?

Oppressive as the taxes are, the provisions for carrying the law into effect are, if possible, even more oppressive and vexatious; and we venture to assert that in hundreds of cases the law will not, nay, cannot be carried into effect.

The 2d section provides, that after the 18th of April every mechanic, embraced by the law before he be permitted to make a saddle, a hat, or a pair of boots, shall enter into bond, with two securities, to be approved of by Major Davison, the Collector, in a sum not less than the computed duties for the year, nor less than 100 dollars, "that he will make true and exact entry and report, in writing, to the said Collector, of every building, vessel, machine, implement or utensil owned by him, where situate, &c. &c.; that he will, from day to day, enter, or cause to be entered, in a book or books, to be kept by him for that purpose, and which shall be open at all times between the rising and setting of the sun, for the inspection of the Collector, who may take minutes, memorandums or transcripts thereof, the denominations and quantities of the articles manufactured or made and will render to the Collector on the 1st of January, April, July and October, in each year, a general account in writing taken from his books, of the denominations and quantities of the said articles, &c. &c." The manufacturer is also obliged to keep an account, on oath, of all articles sold, and provided the article sold amount to ten dollars, to set down the name of the purchaser, date, &c.; this book also to be open to the Collector whenever, and as often as he may choose to pay his domiciliary visits; and he is at liberty to take copies of any accounts he may think proper!

The 5th section provides that in case the duty imposed shall not be punctually paid, the manufacturer shall, in addition, pay 10 per cent, and if not paid in three months, his property may be seized and sold.

The 7th section provides that any person wilfully neglecting or refusing to do the things required by the act, shall forfeit all the goods or wares manufactured by him, with all the tools or implements, together with 500 dollars.

The 14th section.—Persons forcibly obstructing the Collector in the execution of his office to forfeit 500 dollars.

The 15th section provides that any person who shall refuse admittance to the Collector, for the purpose of inspecting the accounts; in examining, measuring or describing any vessel, machine or implement of the manufacturer to forfeit 500 dollars. Further comment on such oppressive provisions is deemed superfluous!—But we

ask, does history afford a parallel to this system of taxation? Have we ever before read of a government which has so lightly prized the rights and immunities of its subjects, so totally destitute of every sense of justice and honour as to tax them beyond their income? No! It has remained for "Mr. Madison and his votaries" to introduce a system which will cause its authors to be execrated, and their memories hated to the latest posterity.

EAST-FLORIDA.

The loyal inhabitants of East Florida are again under apprehensions from the patriots. We hope no citizens of the U. S. act among them, or aid them. Let the Spaniards settle their affairs in their own way. Let them revolutionize or adhere to Ferdinand, or Charles, or any one else, as the majority of them may please.

A Philadelphia article, states, that the people left on the wreck of the *Surprise*, are all faved but 17, and landed at Barnegat, on rafts and spars.

Shipwreck of the Decatur.

Extract of a letter from one of the crew of the sloop *Decatur*, Capt. Dougherty, dated.

"Portsmouth, England, Dec. 3, 1814.

"Dear Mother & Sister,
Through the blessing of God I am safe landed in England, after running a very narrow chance of losing my life; on our passage from N. York to St. Barts, eight days out, we were upon a hurricane and all hands lost except the captain, one man and myself. It was on Monday about 12 o'clock, we all went below in the cabin to get something to eat, except one man who was on deck. We had nothing to eat since Saturday, the weather was so very bad we could get nothing cooked; we had not been below five minutes when she upset. The slide being over and we thrown in such confusion we could not regain the companion way before she filled with water, and four poor fellows drowned beside me, and I not able to give them any assistance and expecting every moment to share the same fate; but through Divine Providence I got safe out of the cabin, after remaining fifteen minutes after the poor fellows were drowned. When I floated out I had expected to see the captain or any one else; but they were clinging to the side of the wreck. After I had regained the side she went over the second time and both of her masts went; her main mast went close aboard and her fore mast left about four feet, which we immediately made for, and fastened ourselves, and remained lashed to the stump, until Wednesday morning when it became a little more calm; we then unlashed ourselves to give us a little ease, for where the ropes were round our body you might lay your three fingers. I had nothing on but a shirt and trousers; that morning we saw one of the poor fellows floating in the cabin and we directly have him overboard for fear hunger should press us to eat him, and we got them all and I likewise threw them overboard, not knowing how soon it might come to our turn, for we had been almost four days without putting one mouthful in our mouths, either to eat or drink; but it pleased God to send to our assistance a British sloop of war on the Saturday following which made the eighth day that we had nothing to eat or drink. I lost every thing I had except my protection and a few small articles which I had in a belt around my waist; but I assure you I was very thankful for getting off the wreck with my life; when I shall get home God only knows but I hope it will be next spring."

WILMINGTON, N. C. MARCH 24.—A sloop, *Osiris*, Mitchell, 16 days from Havana and 7 from N. Providence, after being detained by the privateer *Java*, of that place. He reports that the prisoners were to be released on the 21st, and intended purchasing a vessel to come home in; Left at N. Providence, sloop *Roxana*, libelled. Arrived on Monday, the British brig of war *Minny*, Capt. Locke. She is direct from Cumberland Island, and is destined to transport the British prisoners in this place to Bermuda.

BERMUDA, March 11.—The long expected *Cork fleet* has at last arrived; many of them (with goods for the merchants and government stores, &c.) have got into port last night and this morning, but a number are still beating up to the Island. As five months have elapsed since they first sailed, they of course bring us nothing new.

Wednesday, sailed, his Majesty's ship *Endymion*, Capt. Hope, with her prize, the president, from England.

Installed.—In Pelham, N. H. Rev. Winthrop Bailey. Sermon by the Rev. D. Puffer, from this text "The officers said, never man spoke like this man."

DIED

In Prussia, the celebrated General of Cavalry, Dr. Lessing.—The Royal Princes of Prussia, old Prince Blucher, and other chiefs of renown, attended his funeral, supporting the infant son of the deceased.—In France, M. Jean Boichat, a very distinguished sculptor, and Member of the French Institute. Aged 76.—In Konigsberg (Prussia) Mr. Daniel Zimmermann, one of the most charitable men of the age. He had given 60,000 florins for the establishment of schools, hospitals, &c.; left 17,000 to the poor; and a bequest of 220,000 florins, toward a fundation, out of which might be paid annuities of 300 florins each, to 15 widows of decayed merchants; and annuities of 130 florins each to 40 poor men or widows of other classes.
In Bridgewater, Mr. George Howard, Aged Ninety Four—descendants 208—of which ten were of the fifth generation—174 survived him.—In Waterbury, M. S. Clarissa, wife of Mr. Edward Loud, aged 44.—In Lexington, Miss Fausina Mulliken, aged 22.—2 Chester, N. H. Mr. Nathan Webster, aged 52, of the epidemic which has occasioned so much alarm and so many tears, in the interior.